[31st July 1962

DR. A. CHIDAMBARANATHAN : Sir, in 90 per cent of the cases the Government order has been interpreted rightly as far as I can understand, but in respect of about 10 per cent of the cases, there has been a wrng interpretation of the order. I understand representations have been made to the Government in this regard. Will the Government be pleased to expedite the issue of orders in clarification of the said Government order?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I cannot say it was a wrong interpretation of the Government order. I have already stated that the whole question is under examination.

Co-operative House Construction Societies.

MR. CHAIRMAN : As the hon. Member Dr. A Sreenivasan is not in his seat, the question and the answer thereto will be printed in the official report of the proceedings.

* 153 Q.—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) the amount allotted to and the amount disbursed through Co-operative House Construction Societies in the year 1958–59 and 1959–60; and

(b) the reasons for the non-disbursement of balance, if any?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (a) Loans are sanctioned by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies to individual House Construction Co-operative Societies with reference to their applications. But actual disbursements depend on availability of funds in the Budget, and the stage of construction.

The amounts sanctioned and disbursed to the House Construction Societies in the years 1958–59 and 1959–60 are given below :—

Year.	Amount sanctioned.	Amount actually disbursed.
(1)	(2)	(3)
	RS.	RS.
(i) 1958–59	10,06,900	5,21,300
(ii) 1959–60	44,08,520	20,53,800

(b) The reasons for non-disbursement of the balance are, that some societies were sanctioned loans at the fag end of the year, some did not apply for the drawal of loans in that year, and, in the case of others, there were no funds available in the Budget, or final instalment of loan could not be disbursed as the deviations made in the plan were pending approval.

Bus drivers

* 154 Q.—SRI S. K. SAMBANDAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state whether there is any scarcity of bus drivers in the State Transport Department, Madras ?

31st July 1962]

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Though the number of rolls is full, yet the optimum operation of the fleet strength is handicapped due to absenteeism and the consequent reduction in the effective number of drivers available at any time.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Sir, is there any proposal to make up the deficit in the number of drivers by opening a training school to train people in driving buses? 10-40 a.m.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The State Transport Department is organising a training school, and it proposes to train three hundred drivers every year for replacement and augmentation.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the day ever dawn when passengers will not be made to stand in the buses and travel?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : That day has not dawned anywhere in this world. The hon. Member has to find it in some other world.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Can the Government assure me that no private operator, if given the right to run the city transport, can run this more efficiently with no standing passengers in the buses?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The metropolitan transport in many parts of the world is run only by private operators, and all of them have more standing passengers than are allowed in Madras.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Is it because of the scarcity of bus drivers, the Government transport propose to take in recruits who have not been drivers for three years, but who have been drivers only for six months?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The original regulations require that lorry and bus drivers should have heavy endorsement for three years. The Government have examined the position, and, in consultation with the Transport Commissioner, have reduced the requirement to 18 months. They think this is sufficient.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Sir, what are the reasons for this scarcity of drivers, especially in the State Transport?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Not especially in the State Transport, throughout the State there is scarcity. This shows how full is the employment provided in the State.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : In the mofussil buses, the number of sitting passengers is more, and passengers are not allowed to stand. Cannot the Government extend this arrangement to the City transport?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : That will only inconvenience the city transport. All the bus passengers have to go

to their offices within a specified peak period of two hours. Within these two hours, we cannot put in so many buses to carry all of them. This is not done in any part of the world.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Since human lives are involved, will the Government take care to see that rigorous tests are employed before a bus driver is certified fit to drive buses?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : It is because the regulations are very strict that many people who are drivers do not get employed in the City transport and other heavy vehicles. I think the present regulations are quite adequate.

Ceiling on houses

* 155 *Q.*—SRI K. S. ABDUL WAHAB (on behalf of Dr. A. Sreenivasan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the speech made by the Finance Minister at the time of inauguration of the Bhaktavatsalam Nagar in Madras recently, wherein he is reported to hav suggested a ceiling on houses : and

(*b*) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) No such proposals are under the consideration of Govrnment.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Express bus

* 156 *Q.*—SRI J. PONNUSWAMY VILLAVARAYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to ply an express bus from Tuticorin to Tiruchirappalli via Kovilpatti, Sathur and Virudhunagar?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : No, Sir.

State Electricity Board

* 157 *Q.*—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of posts of (i) Divisional Engineers, (ii) Assistant Engineers and (iii) Supervisors vacant as on 1st March 1962 in the State Electricity Board;

(*b*) the duration of these vacancies; and

(*c*) the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) Four posts of Divisional Engineers, 8 posts of Assisatnt Engineers (Electrical) and 291 posts of Supervisors including certain Junior Engineers were vacant in the State Electric Board as on 1st March 1962, besides some other posts of Executive Engineers and Assistant Engineers (Civil) in the project circles.

(b) The duration of these vacancies ranges from 1 year to 1 year and 10 months.